

MMS Alaska OCS Region

News Release

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MMS Issues Sport Fisheries Economic Assessment for Lower and Central Cook Inlet

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) recently released an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Study entitled *An Economic Assessment of the Sport Fisheries for Halibut, and Chinook and Coho Salmon in Lower and Central Cook Inlet* by Mark Herrmann and others, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The 135-page report provides baseline data that is used in a predictive model. The model of participation rate changes can be linked to a regional input-output model to estimate net benefits to sport fishers and the regional economic impact of marine sport fishing on the Kenai Peninsula economy. The model can predict changes in sportfishing trip attributes as a result of a variety of changes. Among other changes, those associated with environmental effects that might be associated with OCS activities can be analyzed and predicted.

The report, OCS Study MMS 2000-061, is available from the Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363. Copies are available free of charge, as long as the supply lasts, from the above address. Telephone requests may be placed at 1-800-764-2627 or (907) 271-6438. E-mail requests may be posted to akwebmaster@mms.gov. The report is also available via the internet at www.mms.gov/alaska or from the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services at ww.arlis.org.

MMS began the Coastal Marine Institute in 1993 to take advantage of local environmental scientific expertise. Through a 5-year Cooperative Agreement, the MMS commits up to \$1 million per year for studies to be conducted by the CMI, if it can obtain matching funds. The University of Alaska Fairbanks administers the Alaska CMI. The MMS, State of Alaska and the University participate in the CMI Technical Steering Committee who reviews research proposals and helps to assure the scientific quality of the studies.

MMS is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These revenues totaled nearly \$8 billion last year and more than \$110 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

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